

[Sir Mahomed Usman] [25th January 1933]

may be reduced to Rs. 50, I know that the proposal is made in the interests of smooth-sailing and I reluctantly agree to it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'that the Bill further to amend the Madras City Police Act, 1888, for a certain purpose (Bill No. 2 of 1932) as approved by the Select Committee be taken into consideration'."

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 1.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will now put each clause to the vote of the House. Clause 1 with the alteration of ' (Amendment) Act, 1932,' into ' (Second Amendment) Act, 1933 ' was put and carried."

Clause 2.

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I move—

'for the substitution of the words "fifty rupees" for the words "one hundred rupees" in clause 2'."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 2, as amended, was put and carried.

The Preamble was then put and carried.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I now move, Sir—

'that the Bill, as amended, be passed into law'."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed into law.

XI.—DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1932-33.

GRANT VI—IRRIGATION (EXCLUDING CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT)—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that—

'the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 900 under Grant VI—Irrigation (excluding Cauvery-Mettur Project)—Reserved.'

"This sum of Rs. 900 represents a token amount of 100 each under nine heads. The reasons for this demand are fully explained in the note which have been placed before the House. The explanatory notes give the details of expenditure under the several items. I think it is unnecessary for me to take up the time of the House in going through these items one by one. If any hon. Member wants further information, I shall be glad to supply it so far as I can."

The demand was put and carried, and the grant was made.

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 400 under Grant XVI—Electricity—Reserved.'

"All these are paying concerns, and the money can be found by reappropriation this year. Only the sanction of the Council is required to incur the expenditure. All the details are set forth in the explanatory memorandum that has been already circulated to the Members."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I am sorry, Sir, that what I wanted to elicit from the Government has been overlooked when the hon. the Revenue Member made his motion for the grant. But, might I take this opportunity and ask the Government whether the sanction to these projects would mean appropriation of moneys which are found to be surplus in the current budget or whether they can be provided for from the provision already made."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I may say that they have not already been provided for. But the money that will be necessary for the expenditure this year will be a small sum, and as my hon. Friend knows very well, when large grants are made for each departments, it is easy to find small sums as reappropriations."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Well, Sir, it may be that these grants are necessary for the purpose of getting on with the progress of the electric schemes. But I feel, Sir, that in matters like this, it will be much better if the money is to be taken out of capital expenditure instead of from revenue funds. It was only yesterday that some of us suggested that some money could be got from the reserves and from the closing balance, to afford relief to the agriculturists. If money is going to be frittered away on many schemes like this, I am afraid the motion that was practically unanimously passed by the Legislative Council yesterday will not be given effect to. It is for that purpose that I rise to point out to the Government that they should, in matters in which capital expenditure is to be incurred, incur expenditure only from the capital account and not from revenue funds."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I rise to ask the hon. the Law ³ p.m. Member whether any profit has already been earned by the Pykara Hydro-electric scheme and, if so, how or by what system of accounting the same was arrived at; whether, if it is a profit-earning concern, commercial system of accounting has been introduced and, if not, whether that will be introduced before long. If once the hon. the Law Member admits that it is a profit-earning concern, he will admit that it is necessary to introduce the commercial system of accounting in the concern. If that is not done, it would not be possible for us to know whether there is real profit or loss. I would therefore urge that if commercial system is not introduced already, it should be done early so that this House might know exactly what is the profit or loss accruing from the concern."

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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Mr. President, if I intervene in connexion with this discussion at all, it is for the purpose of getting information from the hon. Member in regard to item (c) under this Demand, namely, extension of electric supply to Bhavani. I would like to know whether the town of Bhavani is to be electrified or any other place in that taluk."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" With reference to the remarks that fell from my hon. Friend Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, I may say that this comes out of the funds allotted by the Council in the budget last year. I believe that the amount allotted for this expenditure is out of the Loan Fund and it is out of this fund that the proposed expenditure is to be met. Thus the fear expressed by my hon. Friend has no foundation.

" With reference to the remarks made by Mr. Basheer Ahmed I may say that it is only quite recently that the project has begun to work. It is not possible therefore to give the actual details of the profits out of the project. It is a well-known fact, however, that it is a paying concern. As regards his other suggestion that if it proves to be a paying concern, commercial system of accounting should be introduced, I may state that I shall consider it.

" Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder wanted to know what place at Bhavani is going to be electrified. I may tell him that it is only the town of Bhavani that is sought to be electrified, the Bhavani union having consented to meet the necessary expenditure if the Government give them power."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XVII—EDUCATION—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

' that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 3,33,400 under Grant XVII—Education—Transferred.'

" The note circulated to hon. Members explains the reason why this Demand is moved. When the budget estimate for the year was prepared, it was possible only to make a limited provision for this purpose; because, as estimated then, the revenues of the province made it possible only to make that limited provision. In view of the fact that the commitments of the Government are so heavy, it is only equitable that in the improved state of our finances a larger provision should be made and local boards and the managements of private aided institutions should be given some further grants. It is for that reason that this motion is moved."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Mr. President, it is becoming increasingly clear that demand after demand is an encroachment upon the surplus and that there will be nothing left for the remission this Council recommended should be given under land revenue. While on the one hand, it will be very wrong indeed to allow such a large

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surplus as 60 lakhs to be dissipated amongst the various departments of Government without giving the necessary and much needed remission to the agriculturists, the Government are driving the Members to the other alternative of passing Grants for Education, Medical Relief or Subsidies to Local Bodies. This has always been the manner in which Government used to treat this Council. When they have a large surplus of Rs. 60 lakhs it is incumbent upon them to apprise this Council of it and ask for proposals as to how to distribute that money. If the Council had been given that opportunity, there is no doubt that it would have recommended remission to the agriculturists as the first charge upon such surplus. Sir, if only we have the time to look into the manner in which our income is expended, we will know the enormity of injustice we are doing day to day to the poor agriculturists. Our total revenues amount to nearly 17 crores. All this money comes from the poor agriculturists and the landowners, except for about 2 or 3 lakhs that we get by way of remission from the Government of India, as our share of the income-tax. Excepting this, most of the income that is derived in this province is from the land and yet, when you look at the expenditure side, what is it that you see returned to the poor agriculturists? We spend about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores on police. For whose protection? The poor man has not even the property for the police to protect. It is for the townsman, it is for the man living in the cities, driving in motor cars, owning wealth to be protected that we spend such a large sum as $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Then we spend an equal amount on education. What kind of education? Not even a tenth part of the sum spent under Education goes for rural education, for education in villages. We spend a lot of money upon university education, upon buildings for universities, upon secondary schools and upon higher education. You will see that all this sum is therefore spent in towns and cities for the benefit of those who live there. The villager does not get the benefit of education and it is denied to him.

“ Then about medical relief. What is the medical relief we give the poor man in the village? Except a few medical men who are taken in under the Rural Medical Relief scheme, every other rupee spent on Medical Relief goes to the man who lives in the city or who has got the luxury of becoming sick. A poor man cannot enjoy the luxury of getting sick to avail himself of the medical relief provided by the Government. Practically the 17 and odd crores that you take from the land is given to the person who is a parasite practically upon the poor population, to the person who lives in the city, enjoying privileges and luxuries at the expense and sacrifice of the poor man. That is the situation in which we are. Now I ask, are the Government going to allow the poor agriculturists to perish, to completely become useless even to give you the 17 crores you want in order to spend on townsmen? That is a very unfair way of dealing with the goose laying the golden egg. From this point of view it becomes imperative on our part to object to the surplus being distributed in this way. Apart from that, granting that we cannot influence the Government to reserve this large surplus in order to give remission to the agriculturist and the cultivator, we have to examine whether the amount that is now asked for is to be properly

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spent. The hon. Minister for Education wants this money for the construction of buildings, for grants to private management and local bodies who have built buildings for the purpose of housing schools and for which half contribution from the Government is justly due. But before the Government agrees to give moneys as grants for the construction of buildings for schools, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he has increased the allotment for the distribution of ordinary grants to these schools? Most of the schools are to-day on the verge of ruin. Private managements are unable to continue to maintain schools on account of the fact that the Government grants have been reduced by practically a third of what they formerly were. Many schools which have rendered very useful service in the spread of education and which have co-operated with the Government in educating the masses are to-day at the point of being closed down. May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education to tell us what amount he has set apart for increased grants to be given? Is it not a fact that the grants originally given were reduced by a third of the original figure. I know from practical experience, however emphatic may be the denial from the hon. Minister, that in respect of the schools in the city there has been a great reduction in the award of grants and, I dare say, that is the case also with regard to mufassal schools. If it is necessary therefore that we must agree to this demand, we can only do so if the expenditure is going to be made on the more essential service of increasing the ordinary grant than on the non-essential service, so far as this year at least is concerned, of constructing buildings."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Sir, it is said that the provision in the current budget for Building and Equipment Grant fell far short of the actual commitments and that in fact the demand was five times the actual provision. If that be so, I wish to know from the hon. Minister on what principle this limited sum of Rs. 3 lakhs and odd is going to be distributed. Is it going to be a case of first-come first-served, or is it going to be distributed on any rational basis? There are cases in which grants are required very urgently and there are cases in which the grants are an utter necessity. There may be cases in which the grant may not be so urgent. Therefore I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether any principle is adopted for the distribution of the sum now asked for."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Sir, I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one matter in connexion with the allotment of building grants. So far as my information goes, the Government, as soon as they receive the budget of the District Educational Councils, pass the amount shown in the budget. For instance, with respect to the Salem District Educational Council I am given to understand that they budgeted for about Rs. 10,000 for building grants, and though the Government sanctioned that item they are not actually paying any appreciable amount for the purpose. I request the Government to come forward with liberal grants to District Educational Councils so that the aided agencies may get more grants freely."

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“ But I would also request the hon. Minister to consider the case of Salem which is comparatively a very poor district where the aided managers are not able to get good accommodation. So I request him to consider twice before he distributes the amount, to consider the claims of Salem and do justice to it. 3-15 p.m.

“ As for the local bodies, I think the Government should be more liberal in giving grants, because many of the local fund elementary schools are being kept without proper accommodation and they are being recognised temporarily year after year. Therefore I request the hon. the Minister with a view to afford facilities for getting permanent recognition to make more liberal grants to these schools.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ I am in entire agreement with the observations made by my hon. Friend Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar. It is undoubtedly true that the mufassal interests are in an ever-increasing extent being sacrificed to satisfy the so-called claims of the city. We hope that my hon. Friend Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, the Member for the City of Madras, will stand by us when the time comes for pressing the claims of the mufassal. Probably when we press the claims of the mufassal, the City Members may have a different thing to say.

“ I am just now concerned in asking the hon. the Educational Minister whether in the amount he is now asking for he has made provision for completing the buildings for which he has already given a grant. I have in mind the particular case of the Municipal High School of Hospet. Originally the estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 49,000. In that it was estimated that the building was to be constructed with bricks, the roofing was to be of Mangalore tiles. Now, Sir, we have no facilities in Hospet for manufacture of good bricks. But, we have very good stone available. Mangalore roofing again is not suitable for a high building in an isolated area like the one at Hospet. Government have been avoiding it for their buildings. There were similar objections to some other buildings. The Consulting Architect to the Government personally inspected the place and satisfied himself that at least the important objections raised to the original estimate were reasonable and after cutting off the superfluous items that were asked for, ultimately approved a revised estimate for Rs. 63,000, if I remember right. The revised estimate is now in excess of the original estimate by Rs. 14,000. The Government, according to the rule of half and half grant, have to find Rs. 7,000. I want to know whether this excess of Rs. 7,000 is going to be granted free and the balance as a loan.”

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ I wish to confine myself only to one item in the grant, that is, the building grants to elementary schools. Sir, it is true that much more money than has ordinarily been allotted hitherto to elementary schools is required by the local boards and municipalities in the districts of South Arcot, Coimbatore and Salem. I have personal acquaintance with many of them, both the local boards and municipalities. They have no buildings of their own in

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many cases. It is very difficult for them to find the necessary funds for putting up buildings of their own necessary for the elementary schools. What is happening is that if a school is needed in any area it is located only in such places where a building is available. Very often the taluk board or the municipality asks for buildings free of rent and if in a particular village no suitable building is available or even if available, is not free of rent, no school is located there, although there may be a great need for a school in that locality. I know personally in the district of Coimbatore (Erode and Gobichettipalayam taluks) difficulties have been felt and for want of suitable buildings no schools could be located although there was great need for them. That state of things has been going on for a number of years. It is high time that the hon. Minister considers ways and means of putting an end to that state of affairs and making liberal grants for the construction of buildings to all local board and municipal elementary schools.

“ Apart from that, I find that these buildings where the schools are located are very unsuitable. The accommodation is not at all sufficient for the pupils studying in those schools and the buildings are so insanitarily constructed that they are hardly fit for human habitation, at least for young pupils crowded in them. I would like the hon. Minister or the authorities lower down to carefully consider the question before the grants are actually disbursed and find out as to what exactly is the nature of the buildings that are to be put up out of this grant. I find very often unsuitable buildings are being constructed and the works are given to bad contractors and there is no proper supervision. I have heard that in buildings that have been put up on particular places, the walls and roofs have cracked or become leaky within a short time. Such irregularities ought to be avoided. It is quite within the purview of the Educational Department to see that the grants made are properly utilized. I remember that some years ago when the Agricultural Commission came and reported on rural education they recommended certain types of buildings and certain types of schools to be promoted in the rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how far these conditions laid down by the Agricultural Commission have been given effect to. In one particular item the Agricultural Commission recommended that each school in the rural area should be surrounded by a sufficiently big compound for the boys to learn some of those things which are necessary to be learnt in the rural area. For instance, they have to be taught agriculture on a small scale and also breeding and farming. These things have to be kept in view when buildings are constructed. I have seen buildings where there are no compounds at all. In some cases they are as congested as may be in any crowded city or town. I should like to urge upon the attention of the hon. the Minister for Education to take steps to improve the present type of schools and also to see that each school is constructed in an area surrounded by a sufficiently big vacant space suitable for agriculture and other operations to be taught to the pupils. I therefore urge that at least in the next budget, if not in the supplemental budget, larger

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grants should be provided for elementary schools and strict terms and conditions imposed for their proper utilization."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I wish to have some information from the hon. the Minister for Education on one point. The hon. Minister has come forward with a demand for grants under various heads in the educational budget. I wish to know whether the hon. Minister had considered the question of wastage in education. At the Budget meeting last year I think the hon. Minister promised that he would go into this question thoroughly and suggest remedies to prevent this wastage. Of course we know the various Educational Councils are distributing patronages all round. Yearly grants to schools in most cases have not been utilized and in many cases the inspecting authorities have not given recognition. I think there is no provision to surcharge the Members of these District Educational Councils as there is in the case of local bodies. The Members of the Educational Councils have no fear and they go on distributing patronages so that they may have a large number of canvassing agents who could canvass votes for them at the time of elections. I wish to impress upon the hon. the Minister for Education that he should take immediate steps to prevent this wastage in the Education Department. I should certainly be pleased if the hon. Minister is able to enlighten us on this point."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, of course some of the Members who spoke said that all the moneys that the hon. Minister wants are for the City of Madras or for some other town. They spoke like that and my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar appealed to us to look after the rural areas. I may say all the items that are mentioned here are for the rural areas and not for the City of Madras alone. Except Rs. 30,000 which is required for the Arts Colleges, all the other moneys have to be spent on secondary and elementary education of local bodies. I wish the hon. Minister for Education amends the Madras Education Act in such a way that levying of fees in the compulsory elementary education area will be put a stop to. I also request him to make liberal grants to aided schools in the City of Madras. We want that more money should be spent for secondary and elementary education in the rural areas. We want many more things to be done for the City of Madras. Compulsory elementary education should be introduced throughout the presidency. Any amount of money could be lavishly spent as they do in the western countries. I also believe in holding schools on pials and under banyan trees, seating the pupils on the mat as a very good means of spreading elementary education throughout the presidency. Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar to-day referred to the resolution of yesterday for a remission of land tax by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I tabled a resolution for 25 per cent reduction. In the United Provinces they have reduced it by 25 per cent and Sir Malcolm Hailey is credited as a statesman for doing so. He is not only a Revenue Collector but he is considered also as an able administrator who knows the difficulties of the agriculturists. I wish that our taxation is reduced as much as possible. Some hon. Member congratulated the Finance Member on the surplus this year more than the last year and for

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having balanced the Budget. I believe, Sir, these surpluses will lead to future misery for this province. Our administrators for years past were squeezing money out of the ryots and without attending to the various schemes which have been of great necessity to our province, were showing surpluses and accumulating money so much so that when Montford Reforms came our presidency had to contribute 340 lakhs to the Central Government while sister presidencies had to contribute only 50 or 60 lakhs. Thus our presidency was subjected to an iniquitous impost. This Council, the then hon. the Finance Member, the editor of the Madras Mail all struggled hard to get relief. Now when all the other provinces have not been able to balance their budgets owing to the depression we are able to balance our budget and also perhaps increase our income. This we have been able to do by retrenchment, by withholding relief from the ryots and not taking up works that are most needed.

3-30
p.m.

“ I am afraid the same story will be repeated in connexion with the coming Reforms. It will be pointed out that Madras has got more than it needs and can very well make a handsome contribution to the Central Government. The way in which our finances have been managed is, I hope I will be excused for saying that, not to the advantage of our Province. It is not statesmanship to commit a mistake and then make efforts to rectify the blunder. What I would say to every Member of the Cabinet is this: ‘ Now you have got a surplus, a surplus much greater than you had last year. Try and do all that you ought to have done for the Province and save the Province from years of future misery. Do not put yourselves in a position of being forced to contribute large sums to the Central Government when your own nation-building departments are suffering for want of encouragement.’ In this connexion I would ask the Education Minister to amend the amended Education Act which made every one of us unpopular. It is wrong to tax the nation-building branch of education by levying fees from boys and girls in elementary schools in compulsory elementary education areas. No fee should be levied in elementary schools. I am not for having costly buildings and other appliances. I believe in the school under the banyan tree as the only rapid and sure way of spreading education in the country. Then let us encourage and help local bodies in their educational endeavours. I would ask the hon. Ministers to come forward with more supplementary grants so that they may consume at least half the surplus that is available. Let not the Minister in charge forget the contribution to medical inspection of schools. With these words, I beg to support the grant that has been moved.”

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“ Sir, the grant asked for is very little when compared to the needs of the various schools in the Presidency. In this connexion I should like to say a few words with regard to the policy of spending money on erecting buildings for elementary schools. I think that a pucca building is not necessary for housing elementary schools. A thatched shed with a small garden all round is all that is required. It is sheer waste of money to put up big buildings for elementary schools. After all what is the present state of

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many of the buildings in which the elementary schools are housed? They are all dilapidated as nobody cares for them. The teachers have absolutely no idea of how to preserve their buildings. The District Educational Council Members in whose charge the elementary schools are have not the time or the inclination to visit the schools and keep them in proper repair. Even a casual observer will see from the way in which the buildings are preserved that it is all a sheer waste of money.

“The best way in which we can spend any money that is available for education is by giving the teachers a living wage. We must improve the conditions of the teachers who are now in a miserable condition. Stipends for teachers under training have been cut off; this morning also there was a question about the stipends of teachers in Chittoor. I asked the hon. Minister why the stipends have been cut off. Many representations were made to him on this question and I ask him to look over his files and see whether he could not restore the stipends drawn by these poor people. With regard to buildings for elementary schools, I say that there must be a thorough change in our policy. Many of the children who join the elementary school do not stay in the school long enough to learn anything. There is a great waste of money and energy. On the other hand, the case is different with regard to students in secondary schools. They continue their education up to the end. I am surprised to find that no demand has been made for building grants to aided secondary schools. Is it a slip or a deliberate omission? As the boys stay longer in secondary schools, they ought to be looked after more carefully than children in elementary schools.

“Education has been a transferred subject for the last 12 years. What revolution have we effected in our policy? Have we spread education as widely as we ought to have? No, still there are millions of people without any means of education at their disposal. Have we made our elementary and secondary education more useful to the people than it used to be? Have we made any rapid advances in giving vocational and industrial education to the people? I must say that the large number of people we send out of our schools every year without any means of earning their livelihood constitutes a menace to the country. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to all these matters and find fruitful ways of spending the funds at his disposal.”

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Sir, if I understood Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti aright, I think he meant that more money was being spent in the mufassal headquarters, that is to say in the urban areas, than in the rural areas. He wanted that when the Government had a surplus at its disposal it ought not to be spent in the mufassal headquarters and the Madras City but should be spent, most of it, in the rural areas. He said that one of the ways of benefiting the rural population was by reducing land revenue, as was suggested in the resolution passed by the Council yesterday. I think we all sympathize with that idea. If I am not considered irrelevant, I believe, that Tanjore, vociferous as it has been in its demands, and Kistna—it too has probably been so—have made themselves felt this time on account of the

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abnormally low prices of paddy. Unfortunately my district and the other adjoining districts are suffering from chronic poverty all the time, being famine zones and our poverty is not incidental to the present period of depression. Periodical famine and widespread distress are a normal feature with us and therefore we have a greater claim for remission of land revenue.

“ Leaving that aspect of the question aside for a moment, so far as the grants for secondary schools are concerned, if the grants are intended for incomplete secondary schools, they should be passed without a moment's hesitation. There is a school in my district, in Rayadrug, which was taken up by the local body on a promise from the Government of a grant of Rs. 60,000. But the grant was not made on account of the financial stringency. The Board spent its half grant and brought the building up to the roof level. They were repeatedly asking the Government to consider this school as a special case—the building has been brought up to the roof level and there is the danger of the walls crumbling down in the rain—and make the grant they promised. But unfortunately the grant has not been made. The Secretary to the Local Self-Government Department will remember that several times I approached him in connexion with this school. He used to say: wait for better times. Now that better times have come, I hope that the Rayadrug High School building which is in an incomplete condition will be given the grant which was once promised to it.

“ As regards the other item of Rs. 1 lakh provided for elementary schools, I agree with Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, the hon. Member from Chittoor, that this is not the time for starting new elementary schools; we must wait for better times. Of course, incomplete schools must be completed and grants must be made for them. If there is more money available, it should be utilized, as the hon. Member, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar proposed, to make education free and compulsory as far as possible. It is more urgent than having costly buildings. I hope that in utilizing money at the disposal of the Minister he will pay attention to the urgent need of the incomplete school building I have referred to.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—
“ Mr. President, Sir, I am indeed very thankful to the hon. Members opposite who have made some very helpful suggestions in regard not only to the distribution of the amount I am asking for at present but also with regard to the policy that I should adopt in the distribution of any future grants. Let me at once remove a misapprehension which has been entertained by the hon. Member from the City of Madras, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, that by voting for this additional grant a further inroad will be made on the surplus which it is the intention of the House to employ for the remission of land revenue in this Presidency. The surplus with reference to which the resolution of yesterday was passed has been arrived at after making provision for all these additional items of expenditure. So, I would ask hon. Members of this House not to be frightened by that circumstance which my hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, mentioned. With regard to his criticism that the

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City was preferred to the rural areas, well, I am glad that he has been converted to the view which many like myself representing rural areas have advocated for years in this House. But that criticism which he and some other hon. Members made, namely, that the needs of the city (interruption) or the needs of the urban areas as he now corrects himself, were cared for more than the needs of the rural areas, is unfounded.

“ Provision has been made for grants to secondary schools in mufassal areas and to primary schools. Secondary schools and primary schools under local bodies and private management are not confined to urban areas but are scattered all over the districts and they are more in rural than in urban areas. Let me also mention to the hon. Members of this House that by passing this grant, they will not be guilty of any undue liberality with regard to grants for educational buildings. As I explained at the very beginning, the provision that was made in the current year's budget had necessarily to be very limited because it was thought at that time that the amount available would justify only that allotment. But later on in the year it has been found possible to make a larger provision and to bring the allotment for this particular purpose nearer the normal level of the provision which year after year has been made for the purpose of building grants. There is no fear that in the distribution of these grants, any undue partiality would be shown to any particularly favoured schools. As hon. Members just pointed out, the needs of those schools which have already been completed or have progressed much in the execution of their works, they have to be considered first, and the Government have been acting on that policy. It is only those managements which either with borrowed capital or with capital obtained in some other manner, have completed their school buildings, that will be given the first preference. After that, those managements who have undertaken the work and partially executed it, will have the next chance. Schools which have not put into execution any building scheme will have to wait. I may also mention for the information of this hon. House that the Government have issued orders directing the Director of Public Instruction to stop the examination of any further schemes for buildings for schools, so that there is no fear that we shall be flooded with applications for further grants till we discharge the existing liabilities which, I am afraid, may take even five years more. We shall not entertain any further applications for grants for buildings. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me—and if I am not mistaken that was the view of several hon. Members—that we should discharge our present commitments before we undertake further liabilities. With regard to specified schools to which hon. Members made reference, I see that they are schools which have either been completed or which have made substantial progress in their building operations and according to the test which I have already mentioned, I do presume that these schools would be preferred to many other schools which apply for grants. My hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, said that teaching grants ought to have the first place in the distribution of any amount that may be available for educational purposes. I may at once say for his information that even in the budget

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as originally framed, we have made a much more liberal provision for teaching grant than we were able to do last year. The cut in teaching grants has been reduced to 2 per cent of the normal grant which schools would be eligible for. Last year it was a great deal more and I am sure that a 2 per cent cut which has been imposed this year will not be felt as any serious loss by managements of schools. If individual schools and individual managements have suffered, I need scarcely tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, that it is not the Government that is to blame for this result but it is the District Educational Council to which the managers sent their representatives."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I am not referring to primary schools; I am referring to High Schools and Lower Secondary Schools."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"So far as these schools are concerned, they are not going to have any higher cut than 2 per cent. I hope that is as liberal a treatment of these schools as can be expected under the existing financial conditions."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I know of three institutions which have suffered 50 per cent loss."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"If my hon. Friend would bring such cases to my notice, I shall certainly examine them. I may state that the Government have not sanctioned any cut more than 2 per cent of the normal grant for which the school may be eligible. There may be other reasons, that would have justified such a large reduction in the grant to these schools; that is not due to the general cut which the Government have ordered. If my hon. Friend would bring the cases to the notice of the Government, I shall certainly look into the matter and anything that can be done, I shall be very happy to do. I would have been happier than I am at present if I was able to move before this House to-day a grant even larger than Rs. 3,33,400. My only regret is that the financial condition of the Province has not improved to such an extent as to justify a larger demand for this purpose. I once again thank hon. Members of the House for the valuable suggestions they have made, which I shall certainly bear in mind and carry out as far as I can. With these words, Sir, I commend this demand for the acceptance of this House."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XIX—MEDICAL—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant XIX—Medical—Transferred.'

"Under this demand provision has been made for the construction of Infectious Diseases Hospital in Coimbatore and for the construction of a building for the Thondamathur dispensary. The amount required for this purpose is Rs. 15,000 and odd. A token demand

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of Rs. 100 is required for the construction of additional wards in the Leper Asylum, Manamadura. A half grant of Rs. 3,500 towards the cost of the work completed is admissible for the work. A sum of Rs. 100 is asked for. The balance will be met from the amounts resumed and held under Grant XIX. Medical—Transferred.

“As regards the last item—Maintenance of the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital, Madras—I beg to state that the Prince of Wales Hospital Committee have agreed to place at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. $3\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. It is proposed to construct a 50-bed ward for women children in the compound of the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras, at a cost of Rs. 2,61,600. The balance of Rs. 1.13 lakhs is to be used as an endowment for the hospital. The object of moving this demand is to authorize the Government to incur a recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,800 per annum, which is the balance that is found necessary after deducting the amount we would get by way of interest from the endowment fund. For all these reasons, I move for the grant of a further sum of Rs. 300.”

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I am very glad to see the hon. the Raja of Bobbili asking for money for all these improvements. But I wish to point out that there are more urgent needs than the present ones. Some provision should be made for increasing the number of beds in the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital. There is one room used in the out-patients department in which I learn 600 patients are medically examined and given medical advice by 7 doctors. It is only those who go there will know the fact. I would request the hon. the Chief Minister to pay a visit to this hospital so that he may see that the building is immediately enlarged. There is not enough accommodation at all in the hospital. This is one of the hospitals in the City which serve not only the City but the whole Presidency. There the patients are accommodated on the floor and on the verandas. I wish very much that the hon. the Chief Minister comes forward with a supplementary grant, for improving the hospital, immediately before the end of the year.

“Then, Sir, some money is provided for the improvement of the Leper Hospital at Manamadura. I request him to look at the condition of the City. Lepers are a menace to the City. There was a Leper Asylum in Madras; that was removed to Chingleput. There is not enough accommodation in the Leper Asylum at Chingleput. The Government should pay more grants to the Missionaries at Chingleput to increase the beds in that Asylum. It is better to have a Leper Asylum in Madras itself. Here there is no place for lepers to go to. The ‘Poor House’ will not take the lepers, because they are suffering from an infectious disease. They are found everywhere in the City. They are found before the hotels, alms-houses and every tram-stand. So, I request the hon. the Chief Minister to see that provision is made for a Leper Asylum in Madras. I ask the hon. the Chief Minister who is also the Minister for Public Health to see that educational grants are given for medical inspection of schools.

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [25th January 1933]

“I urge the necessity of extending the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital immediately. The patients there are suffering very much. Is it possible for 7 doctors to give consultation to 600 patients in a room perhaps 24 feet by 18 feet? In this room a portion is screened off for private medical examination. Where are people to stay? Where are the doctors to sit? Placing before the hon. the Chief Minister the immediate necessity to extend that hospital, I heartily support his motion for grants to make various improvements throughout the Presidency.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the inadequate provision made for women and children in the Headquarters Hospital at Coimbatore. Sometime ago I wrote to the Government that suitable provision should be made in the Municipal as well as in the Government Hospital at Coimbatore for women and children. A promise was made that in the remodelling of the Headquarters Hospital there, adequate provision would be made for the treatment of women and children especially. Subsequently when I went over there, I found people complaining of the same grievances, which they have had to put up with some years ago. Although the hospital was remodelled and finished, I find, Sir, that gosha women particularly are at a great disadvantage in having recourse to medical aid when the necessity arises. In the City of Coimbatore, there is no special gosha ward constructed either in the Headquarters Hospital or in any other Local Board Hospital or Municipal Hospital. I find that a sum of Rs. 7,894 is going to be paid for the construction of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Coimbatore. I should like to know from the hon. the Chief Minister whether he has satisfied himself that any provision has been made in the Infectious Diseases Hospital for women and children, and especially for those who observe gosha and parda. Though the Muslims are accustomed to gosha and parda, it is very necessary that they should be encouraged to take to medical-aid whenever the necessity arises, and it is not just that they should be penalized for their customs when State funds are spent for public institutions. Unless the municipalities, local boards and the Government give adequate facilities for gosha women and children being attended to in the hospitals, I do not think the improvements which the Government propose to make, will be taken advantage of by an important section of the people at any rate.”

(As it was 4 o'clock, the adjournment motion was taken up.)

4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL WARDS IN MADURA.

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—“Sir, I move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proceedings of the Government in the Local Self-Government Department notifying the division of the Madura Municipal Council wards in Notification No. 54 in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary issued on the 19th instant.

“Sir, this Gazette Extraordinary notification does not in itself contain any statement of reasons. It merely says that this redivision